(b) if so, what steps Govt. propose to take to avoid the disruption of flights of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Flight Engineers Association reprersenting flight engineers of Air India have launched an agitation since 27.2.93 for fulfilment of a number of their demands. As a result, flights of Air India operated by Boeing 747 and Airbus 300 aircraft have been disrupted. Flights of Airbus 310 aircraft, however, continue to operate as they do not require the services of flight engineers. Air India is *making efforts to minimise inconvenience* to passengers by transferring theme to flights of other international airlines. Efforts are also continuing to normalise the situation.

Introduction of Boeing services at Belgaum

2489. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines have concluded that there is adequate traffic at Belgaum for introduction of Boeing services;

(b) whether the Indian Airlines have made a request to International Airport Authority to upgrade the Belgaum Airport; and

(c) whether the amount of Rs. 843 lakhs has been projected as estimated expenditure for the upgradation of Belgaum Airport, if so, what is the present position of the proposal and how much amount is released so far as Belgaum Airport upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Upgradation of Belgaum airport to make it suitable for Boeing operations is likely to cost about Rs. 17.5 crores. National Airports Authority has no proposal to undertake such an upgradation during the 8th Five Year Plan. National Airports Authority however, has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1.73 crores for resurfacing of the runway and associated pavements.

Start of Air services to districts of Maharashtra

2490. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

Will the Minster of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government has urged the Central Government to restart air services of Vayudoot at Ratnagiri airport with a view to opening up backward areas and development of faster means of communication;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Maharashtra Government have requested to start the air services of Pune-Aurangabad-Nanded-Bombay and Nasik-Pune-Bombay routes; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Due to commercial and operational reasons at present Vayudoot is not in a position to start services on these routes.

Expenditure on Advertisements for Promotion of Tourism

2491. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state: